



Mennonite  
Church  
Canada

Witness

# Multi-cultural Ministry Newsletter

July 2003

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**Working towards integration of people groups within Mennonite congregations and cooperation among people of different ethnic, social, national, political and religious backgrounds.**

## From the Director:



Since the publication of the last Newsletter in February, I have received quite a few very positive responses from brothers and sisters, and that was a great encouragement and support to me. I am most grateful for and appreciative of your comments.

I sincerely feel that without your different forms of support and prayers the work of Multi-cultural Ministry cannot be carried out

and we would not be able to respond to our churches' need of the times.

We finally see the publication of the multicultural supplement in the June 16, 2003 issue of *Canadian Mennonite*. For that a word of thanks must be directed first of all to all its directors and staff members, for their wholehearted affirmation and generous support for Multicultural Ministry. A big thank-you also to brothers and sisters who sent in contributions, comments and suggestions. We anticipate the next supplement in the fall of this year. We look forward to receiving further contributions from you, testimonies, stories, reports on church ministry, responses and comments on the work of our ministry. Photos of course are most welcome and cherished.

In the last several months I have accepted a number of speaking engagements and participated in training sessions and seminars across Canada. I also conducted Holy Communion at White Rock Chinese Mennonite Fellowship, B.C. on Sunday afternoons as the church awaited their prospective pastor. Pastor James Lin finally obtained his employment permit and arrived in late June to assume his pastoral duties.

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## Calendar:

July 4-6 – 8<sup>th</sup> Bi-annual North American Vietnamese Mennonite Fellowship Conference, Souderton, PA.

July 9-13 – Mennonite Church Canada Annual Assembly, St. Catharines, ON. To conduct Multi-culturalism Presentation.

August 11-17 – Mennonite World Conference at Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, Africa

September 7-13 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of Missional Church Training, and Witness Staff Meeting, Winnipeg, MB, 1<sup>st</sup> Session of Multi-Cultural Leadership Training Program offered by MC Manitoba.

October 4 – MCBC Worship Conference, Richmond BC. Speaking engagement at one session.

October 6-8 – MCBC Pastors and Spouses Retreat, Sumas, WA.

December 7-9 – 4<sup>th</sup> Missional Church Training, Winnipeg, MB.

## Prayer Concerns:

**Leaders of the North American Vietnamese Mennonite Fellowship (NAVVF)** meet in Souderton, PA, July 4-8. Mennonite Church Canada Witness is a sponsor of NAVVF's church planting ministry in Vietnam. Please pray for leaders of Vietnamese churches which are facing opposition and persecution as Mennonite churches in Vietnam continue to grow.

**The Lao Community Mennonite Church in Calgary, AB** is seeking a more suitable meeting place. Pray for this congregation, that God would strengthen and empower their leadership and provide a place for this community to gather and encourage each other to be God's ambassadors.

Magdalena Widjaja, Pastor of **Chinese Ministry in Grace Mennonite Church, Regina, SK** plans to take a sabbatical study leave at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Indiana, from September to December 2003. Pray that she will be re-energized and strengthened by the grace of God.

**Japanese Mennonite Fellowship in Surrey, BC** has started another worship service in North Vancouver area. Pray that God will add new believers to them and provide leadership training.